

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 148982
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 NEA-11
/165 R

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APPROVED BY EB/OCA/CM/JJREILLY
COM/BED/OED/MEPD/JNRANDOLPH, JR.
COM/BED/OED/MEPD/SMCONGER, DIR.
COM/BED/OIM/TBREWER (INFO)
TATE/ARA/ECP/WSKOK (INFO)

-----035955 130455Z /21

R 122204Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS STATE 148982

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, BL, JA

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: BOLIVIAN NATURAL GAS
UTILIZATION: PETROCHEMICALS

REF: A) TOKYO A-88, B) 77 LA PAZ 4043 (NOTAL)

1. WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE ON BOLIVIAN PETROCHEMICAL
DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITH EMPHASIS ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PROVIDING ENGINEERING SERVICES. WOULD LIKE TO KNOW
STATUS OF STUDIES MENTIONED REF B, CURRENT TIMETABLE
FOR PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES AND FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION,
AND WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD ARRANGING
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FINANCING, IF ANY.

2. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN REPORT REF A FROM TOKYO
THAT JAPAN NATURAL GAS ASSOCIATION IS FORMING A
COMMITTEE OF PRIVATE JAPANESE FIRMS AND BANKS TO WORK
WITH THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT ON FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR
VARIOUS NATURAL GAS UTILIZATION PROJECTS, INCLUDING

POSSIBLE PETROCHEMICALS, LNG, AND METHANOL FACILITIES.
JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING STAGES OF SUCH PROJECTS
WOULD TYPICALLY ENHANCE CHANGES OF JAPANESE
PARTICIPATION IN LATER PHASES OF PROJECTS AND COULD

EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR
PARTICIPATION. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MORE INFO ON
JAPANESE/BOLIVIAN AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY WHETHER
BOLIVIANS ARE BEING ASKED TO PAY FOR TECHNICAL
SERVICES AND WHETHER JAPANESE ARE OFFERING FINANCING,
AND SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED. ALSO, WE WERE NOT
AWARE OF BOLIVIAN PLANS TO PRODUCE METHANOL OR LNG
AND WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER INFO.
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